5. Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This chapter begins the impacts analysis of this EIR. For each grouping of topics, the focus of inquiry is the same — are the primary or secondary physical environmental effects of the project significant, and can they be mitigated to an insignificant level?

As discussed in the Introduction to this EIR, this EIR will not engage in repetitive discussions of issues resolved in previous EIRs. The reader will, therefore, be referred to the appropriate public document where incorporation by reference, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15150, is used. However, a few summary remarks may be made to help relate the data relied upon in this EIR to the impact discussion at hand.

In considering data from prior EIRs, it is important to remember that many impact areas considered were based on *projections* of impact. The new housing unit design which has been constructed at the Theo Lacy Jail in Orange and the Intake and Release Center (IRC) in Santa Ana offers the opportunity to determine security performance for maximum security inmates, as maximum security inmates have been housed at the Theo Lacy Jail since April 15, 1994. Maximum security inmates have been housed at the Intake and Release Center (IRC) since January, 1988. Therefore, with respect to security considerations, this EIR will actually document the *observed* behavior of the facility, as opposed to forecasting its effects.

5.1 Landform, Soils and Geology

5.1.1 Environmental Setting

Final EIR 447 for the James A. Musick Facility Master Plan (1986) reported extensively on soils, geology, seismicity and liquefaction (pages 4-1 to 4-4). That EIR's technical discussion was based on a 1985 report by Converse Consultants, a geotechnical engineering and applied sciences firm in Santa Ana. The text of the Musick EIR with respect to existing conditions is incorporated herein by reference. The Alton Parkway Project Report of 1991 is also helpful in analyzing the extension of Alton Parkway and is incorporated herein by reference. Existing topography, with selected elevations noted, is shown in Exhibit 9.

As noted in that EIR, the Musick Jail site is relatively flat, with a localized highland in the northeastern portion. The difference in elevation across the property is approximately 82 feet. Borrego Wash lies to the west/northwest of the property and will ultimately be separated from the jail facility by the future extension of Alton Parkway. Groundwater was not encountered in any of the known borings on the site to a depth of 45 feet below the ground surface.

1 4